

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2722

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, petition of Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and others for legislation to establish a state pharmacy council to coordinate agencies in lowering prescription drug costs. Health Care Financing.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### PETITION OF:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	Susan Williams Gifford
Mary S. Rogeness	Robert S. Hargraves
George N. Peterson, Jr.	Karyn E. Polito
John A. Lepper	Paul J.P. Loscocco
Viriato Manuel deMacedo	Shirley Gomes
Elizabeth A. Poirier	Michael J. Coppola
Donald F. Humason, Jr.	Todd M. Smola
Susan W. Pope	Richard J. Ross

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

### AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE STATE PHARMACY COUNCIL.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the  
2 contrary, there shall be a state pharmacy council which shall con-  
3 sist of the commissioner of public health, or her designee; the  
4 commissioner of insurance, or her designee; the secretary of elder  
5 affairs, or her designee; the secretary of health and human serv-  
6 ices, or his designee; three consumers, to be appointed by the gov-  
7 ernor; a member from the Massachusetts Medical Society,  
8 so-called; a member from Massachusetts Pharmacists Association,  
9 so-called; a member from the Massachusetts Independent Pharma-  
10 cists Association, so-called; a member from the Massachusetts  
11 Society of Health-System Pharmacists, so-called; a member from  
12 the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, so-called; a member  
13 from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, so-called; a member from

14 Blue Cross Blue Shield, so-called; a member from Tufts Health  
15 Plan, so-called; a member from Commonwealth Communities, so  
16 called; and a member from Massachusetts Association of Health  
17 Plans, so-called. The appointed members shall be reimbursed for  
18 expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.  
19 The state pharmacy council shall meet at least quarterly.

1 SECTION 2. The state pharmacy council shall act to coordinate  
2 the agencies within the executive office of health and human serv-  
3 ices and the division of insurance in their effort to lower prescrip-  
4 tion drug costs for the state. The state pharmacy council shall be  
5 responsible for ensuring the ongoing communication and coordi-  
6 nation between agencies and the agencies communication with the  
7 legislature, while having a vested interest in achieving savings in  
8 prescription drug spending. The state pharmacy council shall  
9 explore improvements in program costs, access, and quality.

1 SECTION 3. The state pharmacy council shall review legisla-  
2 tion and regulations relating to programs and operations relative  
3 to pharmaceuticals and shall make recommendations concerning  
4 the effect of such legislation or regulation. Said council shall rec-  
5 ommend policies which will contribute to lowering prescription  
6 drug costs in the state. Said council shall recommend policies for  
7 the conduct, supervision or coordination of relationships between  
8 state and county agencies, other state and local government agen-  
9 cies, federal agencies and nongovernmental entities with respect  
10 to all matters relating to prescription drugs in the state.